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# LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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## Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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25X1

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(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

25X1

Friday, May 5, 1950

### Papers Reviewed;

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Fayha', Al Manar, Al Ba'ath,  
Al Balad, Al Kifah, Al Masa', Al Qabas, Al Ayyam,  
Al Insha', Al Islah, Al Nazir, Al Jabal, and Al-'Alam.

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(Pr.Dig. 85/2)

BANNING OF LEBANESE PAPERS:

Al Ayyam: Director of Police Major Ahmad al-'Azm issued a circular instruction prohibiting the entry into Syria of the following Lebanese newspapers and magazines:

Raqib al-Ahwal, Al Nida', Al Zaman, Al Diyar, Beirut al-Masa', Al 'Ahid, Al Ruwad, Al Hadaf, Al 'Amal, al Sayyad, Al Tayyar, Al Telegraph, and Al Nida'-al-Watan.

Other Lebanese papers may be sold in Syria.

CONFUSION IN SYRIA DENIED:

Al Balad: It is reported from Cairo that a responsible spokesman in the Syrian Legation there has denied a report by Al Ahram, Egyptian daily, that the mounting confusion there may lead to a new coup. He asserted that stability prevails in Syria and that close cooperation exists between the Army and the Government.

As to the resignation of the Defense Minister the spokesman stated that it is a result of disagreement between him and certain of his colleagues in the Cabinet over specific provisions in the new constitution. He added that the resignation of the Minister had not yet been accepted, and concluded, "By resigning the Defense Minister hoped to have more freedom to defend his views."

NATIONALIST PARTY CELEBRATION IN HOMS:

Al Qabas: On Martyrs Day, May 6, the Nationalist Party will celebrate in Homs, tomorrow, Saturday. Several Party leaders will speak at the celebration ceremonies.

SOVIET MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES:

Al Jabal: Mr. Solod, the Soviet Minister in Syria and Lebanon, is making preparations to leave for his new appointment in the Soviet Foreign Ministry. He has made several official and unofficial approaches in Damascus with the view to encouraging Syria to purchase arms from Russia and other Eastern satellite countries. He has reportedly promised to recommend to his Government the sale of all types of arms to Syria and other Arab states in exchange for Syrian products. The Russian Minister however, conditions that Syria should not join either of the two conflicting camps.

STRONGLY...

(Pr.Dig. 85/3)

STRONGLY-WORDED NOTE TO LEBANON:

Al Nidal: In a strongly-worded note addressed to the the Lebanese Government Syria protests against the recent Lebanese decree prohibiting the registration of property belonging to Syrians resident in Lebanon in the Real Estate Department.

AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION:

Al Masa': Letters of support and appreciation are received daily by Minister Economy, Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi, for his important speech which he had made in Cairo. A letter signed by certain Mukhtar al-Ani stated that "American public opinion, and particularly official opinion, has begun feeling conscious stricken about the erroneous American policy which has been followed by responsible statesmen and which has resulted in the loss of the Arabs respect and confidence in America."

TAPLINE...

Al Akbar continues its attack on the TAPline. Today it alleges that the Company employs only those possessing recommendations from persons of influence in Damascus.

MINISTERIAL CRISIS:

Alif Ba': A spokesman of the Liberal Republican Parliamentary Bloc has flatly denied current reports that the bloc supports the Government. Furthermore, a spokesman of the People's Party expressed astonishment at the allegation that there was no cabinet crisis. He said that the insistence of Akram al Hawrani on his resignation is a good indication of the presence of the crisis. Referring to the views presented by the Government to the Constituent Assembly with respect to the draft constitution, he said that the constitution was the sole responsibility of the Assembly and not of the Government. The same spokesman denied the truth of the reports that Kikhya expressed to 'Azm his Party's readiness to adopt the views of the Government on the Constitution and to refer the draft constitution to the Constituent Committee for reconsideration in conformity with the government's views.

It should be noted that Premier 'Azm called several times on Hawrani in an attempt to reach an understanding but without avail. It is certain that the Premier will finally define his position within the two coming days, and will ask the various blocs in the Assembly to come to an understanding and have Hawrani back in the cabinet or he will submit his resignation to the Chief of State.

(Pr.Dig. 85/5)

ARAB AFFAIRS

JEWISH CRIMES:

Al Masa': Editor Bashir al-'Awf was the only person who commented on the attempt to shoot down General Riley's UN-marked plane. He writes in part:

This is another example of Jewish wickedness and misbehavior. They fired at General Riley's plane, forced him to land, and then filed a note of protest claiming that the plane had flown over restricted territory.

Undoubtedly, only God saved General Riley from following the fate of his friend, Count Bernadotte. Would the Arabs have done such a thing in similar circumstances?...

Supposing they had. What would have been the attitude then of the United Nations, and particularly that of America?...

The Jews have committed many crimes. They continually commit crimes. When will America begin to recognize them. When will the world begin to recognize them.

AZZAM MEDIATES

Al Nasr: 'Azzam Pasha, the Secretary General of the Arab League, declared in Cairo yesterday, May 4, that he will shortly visit Syria and Lebanon. It is reported that Azzam Pasha made this declaration following interviews with the Lebanese Minister of Finance who is now visiting Egypt and will shortly visit Saudi Arabia. Azzam Pasha is expected to mediate between Syria and Lebanon during his visit to the two countries.

A NEW AMERICAN PRESSURE:

Al Nasr: A report datelined Washington, May 4, states that 51 members of the House of Representatives addressed a message to the Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, requesting him to attempt to obtain a promise from Britain pledging itself to discontinue the shipment of arms to the Arab states pending the conclusion of a peace treaty with Israel. The 51 members also requested Mr. Acheson not to extend the technical assistance referred to in Truman's Point Four Program to the Arab States until peace is finally established in the Middle East.

The paper describes this letter as a new kind of pressure designed to induce the Arab states to conclude a peace treaty with Israel..The Anglo-American conception of a 'peace treaty' with Israel involves the subjection of the Arab countries to Zionist influence and to the modern economic imperialism of America.

(Pr.Dig. 85/6)

The paper observes that Egypt has apparently left the effect of American pressure on its plans for strengthening its defense system, and has, therefore, been attempting to purchase arms from the Soviet Union. The paper calls upon the other Arab states to follow suit and to obtain the arms and technical assistance they need from states not attached to the Anglo-American bloc.

Al Insha' observes that if the reports about the increased American pressure on Egypt are true, they indicate that America has decided to adopt a new and unaccountable policy towards the Arab states, characterized by open threats, warnings and orders. The paper adds that the Arab states should not slacken their firm attitude towards America, but should react to American pressure as Egypt has reacted to recent American warnings. The paper sarcastically remarks that Sa'udi-Arabia need not adopt the same attitude for the purpose of maintaining the benefits it is receiving from the oil concessions.

#### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

##### EXPORTATION PERMITTED:

Al Nidal: The Ministry of National Economy issued the following Decree:

- 1- Export of agricultural, animal, industrial products as well as imported foreign goods which have been cleared from customs shall be permitted.
- 2- Export to Palestine shall be subject to an export licence.

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEETING..

(Pr.Dig. 85/7)

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, Meeting of Thursday, May 4, 1950

Forty-seven members did not attend yesterday's meeting of the Constituent Assembly. President Kikhya was absent and the second President, Ziki al-Khatib, presided at the meeting.

Ratib al-Husami ( P - Homs ) raised the question of the increase in price of the cotton yarn following Syria's separation from Lebanon. He added that this increase would lead to the bankruptcy of hand-loom owners. He observed that the Assembly supported the Government's separatist policy on condition that prices would not increase. He added that separation from Lebanon only benefited cotton yarn factories in Aleppo and Damascus.

Minister Dawalibi replied that these factories have promised not to raise their prices before consulting the Government.

Qadri al-Mufti ( P - Idlib ) said that there are indications that the factories are trying to benefit at the expense of consumers.

Rizqallah Antaki ( P - Aleppo ) expressed a similar opinion.

Rislan ( Ind - Homs ) said that he was asked by the hand loom owners in Homs and Hama to urge the Government to permit the import of cotton yarn free of duty.

Premier 'Azm defended the policy of the Ministry of National Economy and said that the cotton yarn factories of Beirut and Tripoli are striving to misrepresent facts in order to resume the export of their products to Syria. He added that the Assembly had supported the economic policy of the Government despite the general knowledge that Syria may encounter some difficulties which would be overcome later on.

Husami ( P - Homs ) spoke for the second time and attacked the group of hoarders and capitalists represented in the big factories which are attempting to dominate the country's economy.

Hawmad and 'Ass ( P ) urged the Government to take drastic measures against high prices.

Buze ( P - Damas ) said that the Assembly supported the Government policy when it was told that Lebanon was applying the open door policy, but since a Lebanese youth delegation came a few days ago to Damascus in an attempt to resume economic relations on

bases

(Pr.Dig. 85/8)

acceptable to Syria and Lebanon there was no reason for Syria to refuse. He enumerated the losses which farmers and producers had incurred as a result of separation.

He concluded by criticizing the severe measures taken by the Government against Lebanon and by observing that economic separation should not affect national relations.

The Prime Minister replied that the Government resorted to these measures to protect the country's economy and currency. He added that the Government had proposed economic unity with Lebanon but the latter rejected this proposal.

Premier 'Azm added: "The Government is still willing to conclude an agreement with Lebanon regulating commercial exchange between the two countries, but it will never agree to restore the situation which existed prior to separation, since such a measure would cause even greater harm than before. As for our foreign policy towards Lebanon, it has not been affected by separation."

Referring to agricultural products, Premier 'Azm said: "the harvest season has not yet come, and when it comes there will be markets for selling our agricultural products. We have given financial assistance to the Conserves Factory so that it may be able to increase its activity and to consume the vegetable and fruit products of the country. A delegation representing the Company has already left for the neighboring countries to negotiate the exportation of the Company's products. With regard to the ban imposed on travel to Lebanon, this would preserve tens of millions of Syrian pounds in the country."

'Arif al-Taraqji ( Ind- Damascus) read a report by the Education Committee supporting Decree No. 90, transferring certain secondary school teachers to elementary schools, and condemning the teachers' strike. The Assembly refused to discuss the report in view of the lack of quorum.

The decision of the Validation Court was then read confirming the election of the deputies of Jarablus, Jabal Sam'an, and Missyaf.

Rizqallah Antaki ( Aleppo - P) proposed that vacancies in the Assembly be filled from those who obtained the required majority of votes during the elections.

Minister Dawalibi said that the Council of Ministers had referred this question, since it could not decide whether to hold new elections or to choose deputies from those who obtained the highest majority or to leave the situation as it is in view of the fact that the Assembly is expected to complete its work after only one and a half months.

The Minister...

(Pr.Dig. 85/9)

The Minister of Justice recommended in his personal capacity that deputies be chosen from those who obtained the highest majority.

'Abd al-Latif Yunis ( RLB - Safita) proposed the holding of new elections.

Munir 'Ajlani ( Ind- Damas) supported Ynnis.

A proposal submitted by Buzo, Yunis, and Khuja was read recommending the postponement of the debate on the draft constitution from May 8 until May 29 with a view to studying the observations made by the press and the parties on this subject. The motion was interrupted by Hawmad, Qanbar, and Anwar Ibrahim Pasha ( P - Aleppo) who proposed that May 8 be the date of the debate. The President arbitrarily adopted the latter's proposal amidst the cries of the members of the Republican Parliamentary Bloc that they will boycott the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned until Monday May 8.

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